

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action objects to claims 1-9 for their representation in single space form. The present amendment makes changes to the present claims, as a result of which all claims remaining in the application are presented in full, double space form.

The Official Action objects to claim 1 for including recitations that are considered to be mutually exclusive of one another. Please note that applicants have amended claim 1, which amendment eliminates the perceived inconsistency.

The Official Action objects to the drawings for failing to illustrate that which was recited in claim 7. Please note that the present amendment cancels claim 7, rendering such objection moot.

The Official Action objects to the narrative portion of the specification because multiple amendments have made examination difficult. As requested, applicants have included with the present amendment a substitute specification. As the present amendment makes no changes to the narrative portion of the specification, only a clean copy is provided. As the substitute specification adds no matter at all, it clearly adds no new matter to the present application.

For the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of all objections are respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claim 7 as indefinite. As discussed above in connection with the drawing objection, applicants have cancelled claim 7, rendering the present rejection moot.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-5 and 8 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by MOSLEHI. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The Official Action identifies the elements of the applied MOSLEHI reference that have been construed to meet the recitations of claim 1. Please note that applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the electrodes of each pair are subjected, through inverters, to a voltage difference generated by a power supply that supplies a D.C. voltage, creating an intense magnetic field. Additionally, the inverters are recited as cyclically inverting a polarity of the voltage difference between the electrodes of each electrode pair in a manner so that at any moment at least one electrode pair holds the wafer.

The MOSLEHI patent discloses alternative polarity pulses. However, MOSLEHI does not disclose, nor does it teach or suggest, electrode pairs supplied by a D.C. voltage through

inverters that cyclically invert the polarity of the voltage difference between the two electrodes of an electrode pair.

For at least this reason, applicants respectfully suggest that the applied reference fails to disclose the full set of features now explicitly recited in claim 1, and implicitly recited in all claims that depend therefrom. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claim 9 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over MOSLEHI in view of HONGO et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The secondary HONGO et al. reference is offered for its asserted teaching or suggestion of a frequency of commutation of about 0.5 Hz. However, irrespective of the ability of this reference to teach or suggest that for which it is offered, it nevertheless fails to overcome the shortcomings of the primary MOSLEHI reference, as discussed in the anticipation rejection of independent claim 1, from which present claim 9 depends.

The Official Action rejects claim 6 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over MOSLEHI in view of BLAKE et al. and further in view of JP 09265833. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The secondary BLAKE et al. and JP 09265833 references are offered for their asserted teaching or suggestion of electrodes of the chuck being formed by screen-printing, and forming both electrodes and dielectrics by screen-printing, respectively. However, irrespective of the ability of these reference to teach or suggest that for which they are offered, they nevertheless fail to overcome, either individually or collectively, the shortcomings of the primary MOSLEHI reference, as discussed in the anticipation rejection of independent claim 1, from which present claim 6 depends.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

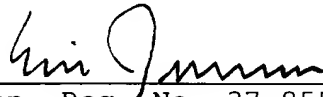
The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2003
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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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EJ/lk

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- a Substitute Specification